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Spot Coffee takes fresh approach to same old grind

January 05, 2011 | DAVID DIPINO dddipino@tribune.com

Downtown Delray Beach has a new meeting Spot.

Spot Coffee has opened its sixth store nationwide, and it's a coffee drinker's oasis featuring a casual bar and dining room, homemade panini sandwiches, thin crust gourmet pizzas, breakfast all day and night and free Wi-Fi.

Spot's proprietors say they have something different to offer than the coffee chains already on Atlantic Avenue, most notably the national chains. Baristas are fully trained and every espresso shot is weighed, timed and perfected.

"It's not push-button like Starbucks Coffee. All of our baristas are trained in latte art," said Richard Gress, Spot Coffee's president of operations.

Spot roasts its coffee in Buffalo, N.Y., site of the chain's original coffeehouse, which opened in 1994. All coffee is served within three weeks of having been roasted.

Why bring the chain to South Florida? Because Gress has a home in Fort Lauderdale and is familiar with [Delray Beach](#), which boasts what he called "a perfect little downtown." He said Spot might eventually expand to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, but [Delray Beach](#) was picked for a reason.

"We wanted our sixth location to be in a stable community," he said. "Downtown [Delray Beach](#) is family-oriented and is a stable community. We used local architects and construction contractors."

A large mural highlighting [Delray Beach](#)'s history, landmarks and notable community members was also commissioned. Local artist Dana Donaty painted the mural, which depicts Mayor Woodie McDuffie, Gress, the Spady Museum, the Tennis Center, the Blue Anchor, Vic & Angelos, the Colony Hotel and more. .

Spot Coffee serves breakfast open to close, dawn to midnight. Pizzas are spun from a gourmet thin crust made on site, and also available are hummus, quesadillas and a new coffee, the "Toddy," which is brewed cold and poured directly over ice.

"It's not just diluted coffee," Gress said. "It's actually brewed cold for that purpose."

Spot Coffee also sells coffee by the pound, real loose leaf tea and granola that is made on site.

"We make our own chi with healthy ingredients," Gress said.

For more information visit <http://www.spotcoffee.com>, call 561-455-4041 or visit Spot's Facebook page.

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